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VF Sharon - Schools

Report of the Committee on High School.

presented and adopted by the Town of Sharon at a legal Meeting held Nov. 6th A.D. 1877.

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Sharon, Massachusetts November 16th. A.D. 1874.

Meeting of Special School Committee at residence of Mr. Geo. W. Gay.

Present. Messrs. Mann. Chute. Gay. Howard and Barbour.

Mr. Mann in the Chair — Mr. Barbour. chosen Secty. pro-tem.

Resolutions submitted by. Mr. Todd and Mr. Barbour.

The Resolutions of the latter after discussion and amendments were passed unanimously, defining the position of the Advisory Board and laying out a plan of organization for the High School.

Whereas. It is competent for this Committee to organize a High School and as an Advisory Board to direct its management after organization, and also to call upon the Town School Committee to co-operate and carry into effect the recommendations of this Committee. therefore.

Resolved, that the School Committee be advised;

1st. To make public announcement by printed notice, that the first term of a High School will commence on the second Monday of December next, and that a meeting of the School Committee will be held at the Central School House on the 3d day of December to consider applications for admission to the school.

2nd. To prepare a list of the children whom they consider qualified to enter the High School, and to present the list to the Principal of the school on or before the commencement of the first

B.

3d To hire the lower floor of the Stoughtonham Institute for the occupation of the High-School, at a rent not exceeding two dollars per week, including use of School furniture provided - the premises are first put in good order and repair, including inside painting and whitening. If it is not found practicable to hire the Institute premises, then the Vestry of the Unitarian Church, which has been tendered to this Committee free of rent for one year, should be taken, and the necessary school furniture either hired or purchased.

4th To secure the services of Mr. Fred. Endicott of Canton as Superintendent of the High and all the other schools, for one year from the first of December next, at a salary not exceeding three hundred dollars per annum.

5th To make all necessary arrangements (after consulting with the Superintendent) regarding school apparatus, books of reference and of record, stationary, care of premises, fuel, etc. so as to enable the Principal on the second Monday in December to enter ~~upon~~ without loss of time upon his school duties.

This Committee is not at present prepared to designate the Principal, but has taken steps to secure a graduate of Harvard College and his appointment will be sent to the School Committee for confirmation after the necessary examination has been made as to his character and ability.

6th To communicate to this Committee any obstacle or difficulty in carrying these recommendations into effect and to suspend all action until this Committee shall have investigated and reported concerning it.

C.

The Secretary was instructed to send a copy of the resolutions as amended to the Chairman of the School Committee.

Sharon Nov. 16th. 1877.

John M. Bullard Esq. Chairman School Committee. Sharon.

Dear Sir.

Accompanying this note please find a copy of Resolutions passed by the Advisory School Board at its meeting held this evening,

You will observe that the Board define its position in the preamble, so far as is required for present purposes, and then proceed to lay out the plan of organization, calling upon your School Committee in each section or recommendation to give practical effect and validity to the measures proposed.

This division of the work and responsibility enables the Advisory Board to carry out the wishes of the town as regards the organization of the school, and leaves the confirmation of all appointments, the making of all contracts, and the expenditure of all moneys, in the hands of your School Committee where it legally belongs.

The Advisory Board will be pleased to receive from time to time any information from your Committee regarding the requirements of the schools, and also any suggestions you may be pleased to make regarding the means to be employed

in meeting those requirements.

Trusting that the desire to promote the interests and welfare of the community will actuate the members of both committees to the exclusion of any private or personal considerations.

I remain. dear sir

Yours truly. E. D. Barbour.
Secretary. pro tem.

On call and notice, by the Chairman being given, a meeting of the Special School Committee was held at the residence of Geo. W. Gay Esq. December 1st A.D. 1877. at 7 oclock P.M.

Present. Messrs. Mann. Chute. Barbour. Gay. and Todd.
Mr. Todd entered the plea of engagement and asked absence.
Mann. in the Chair.

Chose George W. Gay Secretary protem.

On Motion of Mr. Barbour it was voted - That the School Committee be requested to reply without delay to the letter of the 16th ult. addressed to them and to the several resolutions accompanying the letter.

The Secretary pro tem was requested to communicate with the School Committee.

Voted to adjourn to Wednesday evening next Dec 5th to meet at the same place at 7. 30 oclock.

Sharon Dec 1. 1877. Signed Geo. W. Gay Secty Protem.

E.

Sharon Decem 1. 1877.

D. M. Bullard Esq.
Chairman of School Committee

My dear Sir.

At a meeting of the Advisory Committee this evening it was voted.

"That the School Committee be requested to reply without delay to the letter of the 16th ult. addressed to them and to the several resolutions accompanying the letter".

Permit me to state that our Committee is as yet in the dark as to how far your committee intend to co-operate with ours in organizing a High School.

In order to meet the just expectations of the citizens of the town that their Committees will so act as to organize such a school; it would seem to be of vital importance to have harmonious and prompt action by our Committee

A meeting of the Advisory ~~Board~~ Committee will be held at my house next Wednesday evening. Will Your Committee please communicate with our committee on or before that evening?

Very truly yours.

Geo. W. Gay.

Secretary Protem of
Advisory Committee.

Copy

An adjourned meeting of the Board met at the house of Geo W. Gay. Wednesday evning Decem 5. 1877. at 7.30.
Present - Mesprs. Chute. Gay and Mann.
Mann in the Chair.

A majority of the committee not being present. (owing to the violent rain storm prevailing) Voted —
To adjourn subject to the call of the Chairman —

Secretary protem.

On call from the Chairman a meeting of the Special Com^tee was held at the house of Mr George W. Gay. Decem 7^th 1877. at 7.30 Friday evning.
Present at the opening of the meeting Mesprs Mann. Todd Chute. Howard and Gay.
Mann in the Chair —

Mr. Barbour came in after 9. PM. excusing himself with the plea that he had been with the majority of the members of the School Committee Mesprs Bullard. Morse Billings & Rhoades. on his own responsibility and had extended an invitation to the Board to meet us Monday evning. Dec 10^th.
Mr. Barbour reported that he had called on the Secretary of the Board of Education. and had a letter which he produced) directed to the Chairman of the School Com^tee requesting a meeting of the two Committees for the purpose of coming to a mutual understanding that the cause of educa'n might not suffer. and that he or some member

of his Board would meet us and try to help adjust all difficulties existing - and for the foregoing reasons and purposes he (Barbour) had taken the liberty to invite them.

J

Sharon Massachusetts Decem 7. AD 1877.

John M. Bullard Esq
Chairman School Committee. Dear Sir,

The Town of Sharon at its last Meeting (Novem. 6th. AD 1877.) appointed the Board of which we are members with instructions to organize a High School and at the same time instructed your Committee to co-operating in carrying the plans of this Board into effect.

As we interpret the wishes of the town, it was intended that there should be mutual recognition, courtesy and co-operation on the part of the two Committees. We regret to say none of the advances made on our part have as yet been reciprocated by your Committee.

On or about the 6th. of Novem. we invited your Committee to an informal meeting on the 12th. for the purpose of taking counsel together regarding the work to be done.

At the appointed time our Board met, but none of your Committee were present except yourself and you reported that you had heard from all the different members of your committee, except Mr. Rhoades, but that none of those heard from, would be able to attend the meeting.

You assured us that you considered the declination of all to be accidental and not intended as a concerted refusal of our invitation. Being so confident of this you

took it upon yourself to invite us to meet the School Com^tee informally on the following evning. Our Board recognised your good intentions accepted the invitations and met all the members of your committee.

The only important information elicited from the members of your committee was that Mr. Billings had mentioned to his associates informally that he intended to apply for the position as Principal of the High School, and also that some of your committee had doubts as to the legality of appointing a Superintendent without special mention in the town warrant.

Not hearing directly from your committee during the next four days and thinking that they might possibly be waiting to hear from us, we addressed them a note on the 16th of November enclosing a copy of resolutions conveying our partly formed plan of organization, and suggesting to them that in case they found any obstacle or difficulty in carrying out the proposed plan, to suspend all action and report to us for investigation and further advice

A fortnight passed after we had sent the resolutions, and the 1st of Decem. arrived when action should have been taken upon our recommendations, but no reply, or even acknowledgment, came from your Committee

We ventured therefore, on that day to again address you, but we regret to say that up to this moment

no reply from you has reached us. It seems to us that the town when informed of these facts, will have reason to complain of the want of courtesy on the part of your committee.

Your committee appear to us to have studiously attempted to ignore the existence of this committee in that you have utterly neglected to reply to any of our communications or to recognize any authority in us whatever and have failed to carry out or act upon such suggestions as we in good faith have presented to you in accordance with the instructions given you by the town.

We are, therefore, reluctantly led to conclude that we are to expect neither recognition, courtesy nor co-operation from your committee.

Under these circumstances we withdraw the resolutions sent you and hereby enter a protest (as the Special Representatives of the town in the matter of High School) against the conduct of your committee and inform them, through you, that in case of any attempt on their part to act otherwise than in accordance with the recommendations made by us, we shall proceed to take such steps as may be found necessary to protect the interests of the town.

Had the town intended that the School Committee should have the authority to organize the High School they would never have appointed your Board with specific instructions for that purpose.

If in your opinion, any act of the town in regard to this matter is not strictly in accordance with legal requirements, we will undertake to have the matter set right by calling a special meeting of the town for that purpose; or if any recommendation of ours is ill-advised or irregular, we are willing on hearing from you, to reconsider it. If after reconsideration, the two committees cannot agree as to the proper steps to be taken, an appeal can be made to the town at a loss of but seven days time; but on no account can we permit your committee to assume and exercise any of the duties specially delegated by the town to our Board.

The absence of direct communication from you leaves us dependent upon rumor for information as to the course you intend to pursue, which you will admit is very unsatisfactory and not likely to lead to any mutual understanding between the two committees.

We therefore request, that no further action be taken on your part in the establishment of a High school in Sharon, until further communications from our Committee.

William R. Mann Chairman
Edmund D. Barbour
A. P. Chute.
W. G. Todd
Charles T. Howard
Geo. H. Gay.

Special Committee to organize a High School.

An adjourned meeting of the Special Committee chosen by the town of Sharon to organize a High School. was held at the house of George W. Gay. Monday evening Decem. 10th A.D 1877. at 7.30.

Members present Messrs Gay. Mann. Chute & Barbour.

——— Mann in the Chair ———

The School Committee having been invited to meet with us they presented themselves. Messrs Bullard. Morse. Rhoades. Billings and Miss Young.

The meeting was called to order by the Chairman and remarked as follows. Gentlemen of the Special Comtee We understand the Board of School Committee have appeared befor us at this time for the purpose of coming to a mutual understanding in regard to the several duties assigned us by the Town and General Statutes for the organization of a High School.

Our meeting is open for that business —

To John M. Bullard. Chairman of the School Committee.

Question. Have you laid befor your Committee our several communications (under date Nov. 9. 15. Dec 1.st respectively sent them through you.?

Answer. I have. and we have action on them in part.

Motion was made and carried. that we join the School

Committee in an informal discussion for the purpose of arriving at a mutual understanding in regard to our several duties and see how far we may be able to co-operate.

– Intermission –

The meeting was called to order . and on Motion of Mr. Barbour. The following question was put to the School Committee.

Question. Do you intend to follow the instructions given you by the town to co-operate with us in the organization of a High School.?

They were not prepared to answer without consultation. retired and conferred together.

Answer. By their Chairman. "that they were willing to co-operate with the Special Committee so far as they could see their way clear."

Voted to accept their answer.

On Motion of Mr. Barbour. It was voted to adopt the following as a proposition to be presented to the School Committee.

Assuming that the members of the School Committee and the Advisory Board are all in favor of the establishment of a High School, and that there is danger of the

enterprise being lost in case of an appeal being made to the town at present while the two committees are not acting in harmony together. We would make the following recommendation

That the members of both Committees unite in presenting the name of the Rev. Mr. Todd to fill the vacancy in the School Committee caused by the resignation of Mr. Capen. with the mutual understanding that Mr. Todd in case of an election will be appointed by the School Committee as the nominal or acting superintendent of the High School until the next annual town meeting and with the further understanding that Mr. Todd, who by profession and disposition is a peace maker, and in whom all have confidence, shall act as ~~the~~ means of communication between the two committees and be empowered by each committee in conjunction with one other member of each Committee to represent its interests in the selection of a Principal to be appointed by the School Committee.

Read and presented to the School Committee in open meeting for their consideration -

No reply was made to it - The School Committee withdrew. and the meeting was adjourned subject to a call from the Chairman.

Geo W. Gay Secretary pro-tem

I think it best we decide on a course of action to night - and move on in the work as though we have no* doubt in regard to our duty to the town.

"The Committee on procuring a room with suitable furniture an apparatus. to investigate and report as soon as possible -

The committee to learn the number of Scholars that will attend.

The Com^tee. to procure a Teacher and decide on time of Commencement.

And request the School Com^tee to approve and adopt the work submitted.

The main trouble to overcome - Is to so arrange with the School Com^tee that the Teacher may not be left in the hands of the Philistines

Copy of rules passed at a meeting of the School Committee held Thursday January 3. 1878, relative to the establishment of a High School.

Voted that the High School commence Monday January 9. 1878.

Voted that the parents and guardians of those scholars attending the High School be required to purchase all books necessary for their use.

Voted that the Secretary of the School Committee be directed to furnish all books for teachers use from the appropriation made for High School purposes.

Voted that the School Committee will have a meeting for the organization of the S. M. Clay on Monday evening January 1 at the Institute Building at seven o'clock.

Voted that the Secretary of the School Committee notify Mr Clay of the time of the organization.

Voted that the salary of the teacher of the High School for the ensuing term be fixed at a sum not exceeding eight dollars per month.

Voted that the next term of the High School be continued three weeks.

Voted, that the lower rooms of the Institute Building be hired for the use of the High School at a rent of two dollars per week.

Sanford Wolcott Billings.
Secretary of the School Committee.

At a meeting of the committee on a High school, held Nov. 16th it was voted, that

Whereas it is very desirable that the joint committees on Schools of this town understand each other fully & thus secure harmony of action; we, ~~the committee~~ hereby communicate to the regular School Board our views of our duties in the following resolutions, respectfully asking of them a speedy reply to such as are interrogatory.

Resolved, that we understand by the vote of the town at its

late meeting that, new duties having arisen unlike those for which the town chose its regular legal
servants, & no power being vested in the town to immediately add to their number, they have required of a special session, the organization & direction of this work, & to give full effectiveness to these efforts, have instructed the regular School Board to cooperate with them in the execution of their plans

Understanding, therefore, that the selection of teacher, scholars, school room book & all necessary appliances devolve upon us as duties we wish the regular School Board to understand

that their sanction of our choice, & their execution of such plans as require money involves them in no responsibility. And it is to hereby further

Resolved, that inasmuch as we desire not to embarrass our actions with Masters or scholars we hereby ask of the School Board if they will communicate with us, & state definitely whether they know any cause why they can not sanction & execute our plans, & if no cause is known, to state whether they are willing to give such sanction & executive power.